

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01336 072353Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 PC-10 OMB-01 OPR-02

SY-10 A-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 DRC-01 /143 W

----- 027226

O R 072335Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2379

INF AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES THAT ITS CANDIDATE, GENERAL KJELL LAUERUD, HAS WON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

REF: GUATEMALA 1261

1. WITH THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY'S MARCH 6 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOVERNMENT-BACKED MLN-PID COALITION CANDIDATE GENERAL LAUGERUD DEFEATED HIS PRINCIPAL OPPONENT, LEFT-OF-CENTER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE GENERAL RIOS MONTT, IN THE MARCH 3 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BY A VOTE OF 260,000 TO 225,000, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE CLEAR ITS FIRM INTENTION TO STEAL THE ELECTION FOR LAUGERUD. THE PRECISE DEGREE OF FRAUD IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT IS SUBSTANTIAL, AND THE EXISTENCE OF FRAUD IS RECOGNIZED BY A WIDE SEGMENT OF THE BODY POLITIC, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 01336 072353Z

INCLUDING VIRTUALLY ALL POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED

GUATEMALANS.

2. RIOS' ATTEMPTS TO COUNTER THE GOG ACTION VIA PEACEFUL MEANS HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE THUS FAR. WE BELIEVE THE ONLY WAY HE COULD FRUSTRATE A LAUGERUD TAKE-OVER IS THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE NATIONWIDE STRIKE OR PUTTING LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WILLING TO DO BATTLE WITH SECURITY FORCES INTO THE STREET. AT THIS POINT IT DOES NOT LOOK AS THOUGH HE CAN DO EITHER, AND WE ARE NOT SURE HE WILL EVEN TRY. THE POSSIBILITY OF A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION NEVERTHELESS CONTINUES TO EXIST.

3. IN THE LONG TERM, IF LAUGERUD DOES TAKE OFFICE, AS HE PROBABLY WILL, HE WILL START FROM WEAK POSITION. HE WOULD BE HAMPERED BY THE FACT THAT HE WOULD TAKE OFFICE IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE DESIRE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS AND WOULD OWE HIS VICTORY IN LARGE PART TO HIS HARDLINE RIGHT-WING, VIOLENCE-PRONE RUNNING MATE MARIO SANDOVAL, WHO WAS THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF THE FRAUD WHICH PUT HIM IN POWER. ALTHOUGH LAUGERUD COULD BE EXPECTED TO SEEK CORDIAL US-GUATEMALAN RELATIONS, HE WILL NOT BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO PUSH STRONGLY FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORMS WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE IN GUATEMALA'S INTEREST.
MELOY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, COALITION GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, ELECTION FRAUD, DISPUTED ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GUATEM01336
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740361/aaaacfca.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GUATEMALA 1261
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES THAT ITS CANDIDATE, GENERAL KJELL LAUERUD, HAS WON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.
TAGS: PINT, GT, (RIOS MONTT, EFRAIN), (LAUGERUD, KJELL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005